

PRATT LAKE LEVEL AUTHORITY BOARD

Held at Sage Twp. Hall

May 17, 2022

Meeting called to order by Terry Walters at 6:13pm.

Pledge Allegiance lead by Terry Walters.

Present: Terry Walters, Ron Taylor, Kent Crawford, Lucy Zeestraten

Absent: Renee Zelt, and Chris Meissner

Additions to the Agenda: None

Elect chair – Motion to elect Terry Walters as chair by Ron Taylor. Second by Kent Crawford. All in favor m/c.

Elect Secretary – Motion to elect Lucy Zeestraten as secretary by Ron Taylor. Second by Kent Crawford. All in favor m/c.

Correspondence: Pratt Lake property owners would like to have more Pratt Lake owners on the board.

Terry asked Kent Crawford if he was still interested in staying on the board? Kent replies he would for the simple fact not being a property owner he will not be bias and make a decision on what will be best for the community, the lake, and has talk to Jon Curtis about this but has talked to the property owners too.

Terry asked if there was talk about Chris not wanting to be on the board and Craig said he hasn't talked to him. Terry stated that he did not think Chris would have any problem to have 2 more people on the board from the lake. Kent thinks that be diverse is best moving forward. Ron states before he votes can we have an even number on the board. It was stated that it does have to be an odd number. Terry motions to at the time being that the two people that want to be in the board Craig Mills and Brenda Mattson Terry says we will clear it with the attorney to have 6 on the board. Ron asked what are you going to do if the attorney says we can't? Let the two of them fight it out? Craig says keep them on file as altermes when somebody can't show up. Brenda Mattson asked who the other person was. She doesn't care but feels there should be more presentation from the lake. Craig and Brenda both feel that the person does what's best the lake. Ron feels we should talk to Chris. Chris said he wasn't happy being on there. If he gets off, then we can appoint the two and like Craig said we can have one on board and one alternate. If nobody was going to make it, you could call them to step in. Terry said we can wait till the next meeting. Lucy states the next board meeting isn't till July. Ron states we cut down on the meeting to cut the expense. The board gets paid every time they meet. Brenda stated she would OPT out of payment. That's not her agenda. Ron states that what the policy states. John Mattson states to see if we can increase the board by two. We must have an odd number. Terry has decided to wait till the next meeting. Ron states you made a motion let go ahead to agree that we will nominate them into the possession and check with our attorney first. If we can't then we need to talk to Chris. If Chris is willing to step off because he's taking some heat from being on here and Craig states he's getting, having problems with his memory. Ron would second that motion that the two names that were submitted in writing be considered for the positions and let us talk to the attorney to see if its possible. Seconded by Kent Crawford. Craig states we should ask the attorney if we can have a board of 6 and Brenda be the tie braker. All in favor m/c.

Motion to approve the minutes from March 3, 2022, by Kent Crawford. Second by Ron Taylor. All in favor m/c.

Receive and file financial ledger.

Kent apologized for missing Saturday's meeting. Kent asked if the amount that was quoted to the property

owners include attorney fees? Ron Taylor stated that it also includes Spicer Group. Kent states we are paying this and additional fees. There was a discussion on past payments to Spicer and Fahey Schultz. Kent didn't know if the computation of cost is over and beyond what was paid out already. What was already paid out isn't included in the computation of cost. Terry stated that it will be placed in the road right away, make it simple and be done. No one can fool with it. We will check with the engineers and attorney to see if it can get it to the max level. Comment from the public was when would the lake level structure be placed? After the culvert is already in? The lake level structure will be concreted in. Brenda asked if we had a start date yet? I stated no because we still have to do a bidding. Ron states probably July. John Matterson asks if you can get a permit and get it approved at that time if 852.3 could be set. Brenda states we need a level change. Terry states he must talk to the engineers and the attorney to see if we could set it at the 852.3. Ron states that if we can't lift it up our hands are tied. Ron states that they did a survey and when the water got to a certain level they got flooded. The attorney and the engineers look at those. Ron stated that if we put it at the 852.3 and someone got flooded, they would make us take it down to 851.4. John disagrees with that because the courts say we can do that. John states that if someone gets flooded its that's person fault for having a low level. That's not your problem because the court says you can put it at that higher level. Kent states that if we put it at the high level and their septic get flooded then we have problems. More discussion about the lake. Lake level is 851.0 right now. Brenda states that the gage is set at 851 or 852 that is not a foot those are tenths of inch. What looks an inch to most people is 1.2 so that is another thing. 851.4 or 851.5 people think its an inch and its not. Craig said there was talk about putting in a new gage where zero would be lake level. That way people could look at it and see we are down 6 inches etc. Brenda states that it was going to be \$2,500.00 to get a new gage. Ron said that Spicer said they would check the current gage to make sure its right and they checked it and its right. Ron states that there are complaints about transparency but sometimes that's what happens, and we don't say much. Terry staid there was one on the others side and Craig and Ron said it was gone. Craig asked when the meeting is to approve the assessment rolls from Saturday. Lucy stated we go in front of the Commissioner on the 24th. Ron lets Craig know that anything over \$10,000.00 has to be brought to their attention. That how the law reads. The law says if its over \$10,000.00 he has to let the commissioners know what he's doing. All we are doing as a formality doing whatever he's telling us what's going to be done because that falls under the drain commissioner but does have some checks and balances that weren't done many years in this county where a project that were over \$10,000.00 were getting done and nobody knew about it. Kent asked the original court documents rewarding the lake level. Heard one time it was all done and wasn't done right. If you have no water source coming in naturally, how can you word it that a lake level has to be maintained? Terry answered that was with Judge Strange. It had to do with the forum at the time. Ron answered you are absolutely right. Under that law it wasn't illegal to dup an agricultural drain into the lake. EGLE isn't allowing the 2 systems to now be interconnected. There was discussion on weather the court order should be changed because now water can be let out but not let back in. Now there is no maintaining the level. Kent brings up that if a well is put in to bring up the lake level, what will happen to the current wells? Brenda showed her concern since she just got a brand new well. Lucy Zeestraten state that Shawn from Spicer Group said we would have to have a draw down test. Terry stated that he talked to someone that did the well at Secord. They went 300ft down with an 8" casing and pumps 300 gallons a minute. It cost \$45,000.00. Brenda stated that was a good option and we could set it higher, and we are already paying for this and don't have to pay another \$45,000.00 we will have to pay electrical, which will minimal. Nobody was to spend more money. Let just do it the right way first. Ron asked should we go back to court to change the wording. Lucy stated that Stacy said it would be quite expensive to change the wording. Terry will call the attorney and let Craig and Brenda what she said.

Motion to adjourn by Kent Crawford

2nd Ron Taylor

Meeting adjourned at 6:44pm

Respectfully submitted

Lucy Zeestraten, Secretary

